



PSEP Quarterly

A quarterly newsletter for pesticide safety education professionals.

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Headline Story -- NPDES PERMIT REQUIRED FOR DISCHARGE TO THE AIR? By David Filippi and J. Mark Morford (reprinted with permission)

On November 4, 2002, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a surprising opinion that requires a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for aerial pesticide applications over forest lands. The opinion in *League of Wilderness Defenders v. Forsgren*, No. 01-35729, (9th Cir 2002), focuses on aerial insecticide spraying over national forest lands in Oregon and Washington. The broad holding in the decision, however, raises the specter of NPDES permitting requirements for a wide range of activities that have long been thought to be outside the scope of the federal Clean Water Act.

To combat the risk of defoliation caused by the Douglas Fir Tussock Moth, the United States Forest Service (Forest Service) implemented a program to control outbreaks of the moth with an annual aerial spraying regime. The program targeted 628,000 acres of national forest lands in Oregon and Washington, and was aimed at controlling outbreaks that would cause excessive damage in designated scenic areas, critical habitat areas for threatened and endangered species, and seed orchards that had prospered following substantial Forest Service investment.

While it is effective at controlling moth outbreaks, evidence in the court record also indicated that aerial insecticide will drift outside target spray areas and could result in harm to species other than the moth, including various butterfly species. In addition, even within target spray areas, insecticide applications were occurring directly above streams, and insecticide could settle in such waters, possibly affecting stoneflies and other aquatic insects.

A coalition of environmental groups led by the League of Wilderness Defenders/Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project sued the Forest Service in federal district court, asserting that the aerial insecticide program should be enjoined because the Forest Service lacked an NPDES permit and because the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the Forest Service was inadequate. U.S. District Court Judge James Redden ruled in favor of the Forest Service on both claims, and the environmental groups appealed. The 9th Circuit reversed the decision on both claims and directed the district court to enjoin all further aerial spraying by the Forest Service until it acquires an NPDES permit and completes a revised EIS.

National Pesticide Safety Education Related News

The new and improved Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension (CSREES) Pest-Managers e-mail distribution list is now up and running. The purpose of this distribution list is to share information about CSREES' pest management programs, including Requests for Applications and newsletters.

The list has been expanded to include a broader cross-section of those involved with IPM research and extension programs. The Pest-Managers list now includes those involved with the Pesticide Safety and Education Program (PSEP), Pest Management Centers, the Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM), and the Minor Crop Pest Management Program (IR-4). In addition, applicants and others associated with CSREES' Plant and Animal Systems competitive grants programs and other interested parties have been added.

If there are others who are interested in being added to the distribution list, please have them contact us with their names and e-mail addresses so that we may add them. If you have an e-mail address change, please contact Rashele Maclin (rmaclin@reeusda.gov) so we can update.

A National Program Leader for Horticulture is being sought by CSREES' Plant and Animal Systems Unit. This National Program Leader will serve as a recognized authority in horticulture crop production, plant diseases, nematology, and crop physiology, and will be responsible for the coordination and integration of related horticultural extension, education, and/or research programs. More information is available at: <http://www.reeusda.gov/hrd/S3M-4112.htm>. If this is not your discipline, please share this announcement with those who might be interested.

The Fourth National Integrated Pest Management Symposium/Workshop will be held April 8-10, 2003 at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis, IN. The theme of the symposium is "Building Alliances for the Future of IPM."

The symposium is an exciting opportunity to learn about the latest developments in agricultural and urban IPM and to share your IPM experiences with others. It will include more than 60 breakout sessions (workshop, debate, and presentation formats) encompassing almost all aspects of IPM, as well as plenary speakers talking about their experiences in building alliances. In addition, several IPM-related organizations are convening their meetings before or after the symposium, making this a full week of IPM in Indianapolis. More information is available at <http://www.conted.uiuc.edu/ipm>.

The CSREES Plant Sciences Update is now available online in a downloadable PDF format: <http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/whatnew/newsinfo.htm>. CSREES has used the Plant Sciences Update document to brief land-grant university and government partners for quite some time with a "do not distribute" message. Persistent requests for this type of information that could be duplicated and shared with colleagues led CSREES to produce a duplication approved format. The current vision for the Plant Sciences Update is not a newsletter, but a single dynamic document that will be updated regularly. The current issue has articles on the \$43.5 million recently awarded to states for agricultural homeland security, e-grant information, and a new chemical use data Web site.

Help Yourself to a Healthy Home is a new 24-page publication from supported by CSREES and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. It contains information on pesticides, indoor air quality, asthma and allergies, mold and moisture, carbon monoxide, lead, safe drinking water, and general home safety. It can be downloaded free from the Home*A*Syst Web page: <http://www.uwex.edu/homeasyst>. Click on the "Healthy Home" button.

The Spanish version of the popular pest prevention activity book for children, Socorro! Una Cucaracha! (Help! It's a Roach!), is now online. The activities have been designed to be interactive to provide a fun way to learn about managing indoor insect pests. The messages of removing food, water, and shelter apply to many pests, not just cockroaches. The Web version is found at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/kids/roaches/spanish/>. Paper versions of this book are available from EPA's publication center, <http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom/ordering.htm> (EPA 735-F-98-016-English and EPA 735-F-01-004-Spanish).

On September 18 AAPSE President Amy Brown published the organization's progress report. Included in the report are updates on existing and new committees, AAPSE sanctioned presentations to EPA, and the Migrant Worker Interagency Commission, and recognition of outstanding contributions to the agency. The report is available at: http://aapse.ext.vt.edu/archives/02report_to_members09-02.pdf.

The brochure "Phase-out of Methyl Bromide – Application Deadlines for Critical Use" is available online through the Western Region Integrated Pest Management Center. Available at <http://www.wrpmc.ucdavis.edu/NewsAlerts/methylbromide.pdf>, the brochure contains:

- Facts about methyl bromide use in the United States,
- The methyl bromide Critical Use Exemption Process for 2003 Applicants, and
- A list of bullet points that methyl bromide users need to know.

Efforts of scientists at seven North American institutions and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture have produced "Butterflies and Bt Corn: Allowing Science to Guide Decisions," as both an attractive Web site and as a hardcopy publication explaining how a mushrooming controversy over colliding interests was resolved. The scientific and public furor was generated by a small, lab-based study in 1999 indicating that caterpillars suffered when forced to feed on *Asclepias* spp. (milkweed) leaves heavily dusted with Bt-corn pollen, thereby triggering concerns about Bt crops. Attendees at a subsequent workshop on the topic conclusively agreed that credible, science-based facts were needed before any decisions could be made. An international group of some 30 researchers published five papers which, in sum, presented factual evidence that, under actual field conditions, the likelihood of monarch caterpillars being exposed to damaging levels of Bt-corn pollen was low. The Web site is <http://www.ars.usda.gov/sites/monarch/>. A limited number of copies of the publication are available from: R.L. Hellmich, USDA-ARS Corn Insect and Crop Genetic Research Unit, 110 Genetics Lab, c/o In-sectary, Ames, IA 50011, USA. E-mail: <RHellmich@iastate.edu>.

EPA recently issued guidance to state lead agencies regarding the use of methoprene in animal watering troughs. The following is official product use guidance from Jim Downing, product manager for methoprene in the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division:

"OPP has received several inquiries from state pesticide regulatory agencies regarding the use of methoprene granular and briquet products for mosquito control if the application site is an animal watering trough. Labels on these products have some relatively vague language on use sites, such as "water-holding receptacles...other containers" and "other artificial water-holding containers".

Downing noted that methoprene is also registered as a feed-through pesticide for control of flies in livestock manure and that it has established tolerances for that use. He concluded, after consulting with staff in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, that an animal watering trough is an allowable site for the use of methoprene granules and briquets for mosquito control.

State Pesticide Safety Education Program Highlights from Around the Nation and the World Wide Web

The University of Nebraska Pesticide Education Program recently produced a print publication titled: "Federally Registered Restricted Use Pesticides." An online version is available at the University of Nebraska "Pesticide Education Resources" Web site (<http://PestEd.unl.edu>) under "Laws and Regulations for Pesticide Use."

The University of Wisconsin recently released a training CD titled: "Interactive Tutorial: Homeowner Solutions." The tutorial contains 21 chapters, 54 learning objectives, 290 separate screens, 125 audio clips, 300 graphics, 160 animations, and 130 user interactions. It provides information about each learning objective and then asks users to choose their response to a given pesticide handling scenario. This for-sale publication can be obtained by contacting Roger Flashinski at raflashi@facstaff.wisc.edu.

The New York State Integrated Pest Management Program at Cornell University recently released the results of a pest management practices survey of public school districts in New York State. Copies can be obtained by contacting the Cornell IPM program at rk25@cornell.edu.

Texas Cooperative Extension at Texas A&M University recently produced two new manuals: "Public Health Related Pest Control – Vector Control and Domestic Rodent Control" and "Using Pesticides Commercial Applicator Manual Pest Control Category." Copies can be obtained at <http://www-aes.tamu.edu> or by e-mailing the Texas Pesticide Safety Education Program at mahavens.ag@tamu.edu.

University of Illinois Extension recently introduced two new self-study CD-ROMs for pesticide applicators: "Private Applicator" and "Stored Grain Pest Management." The "Private Applicator Self-Study CD" was developed to prepare Illinois producers for the Private Pesticide Applicator certification exam. The "Stored Grain Pest Management Self-Study CD" was developed to serve two grain storage audiences: private applicators needing certification in the Grain Fumigation category, and commercial not-for-hire applicators needing certification in the Grain Facility category. The "Private Applicator" CD (SP39-7-CD) is available for \$20.00, plus shipping. The "Stored Grain Pest Management" CD (SP39-8-CD) costs \$30.00, plus shipping. However, both CDs may be purchased as a set (SET160-CD) for only \$45.00, plus shipping. To order, call 1-800-345-6087.

The Michigan State University Pesticide Education Program recently released its fifth bulletin in its community IPM series titled: "Molds in the Home - What Should You Do?" This is a series of color brochures aimed at homeowners in the general public. The series is available in PDF form through the program's Web site (<http://www.pested.msu.edu/BullSlideNews/Home&Garden/index.html>).

Washington State University reports that Carrie Foss was promoted to Community IPM Coordinator at Washington State University (Puyallup) on July 1, 2002.

The Clemson Pesticide Information Program recently posted an interesting reference Web page describing the history of agricultural pest control from 1854 to 1954. It can be viewed at: <http://entweb.clemson.edu/pesticid/history.htm>.

The District of Columbia has lost a Pesticide Safety Education Coordinator but has gained a valuable resource in its state lead agency. Bob Hamilton left the University of the District of Columbia PSEP program to join the D.C. Dept. of Health, the State Lead Pesticide Enforcement Agency for the District.

The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension recently released a new greenhouse publication titled: "Total Crop Management for Greenhouse Production with Emphasis on Integrated Pest Management." For ordering information, visit the publications promotional Web page at <http://www.agnr.umd.edu/ipmnet/EB363.htm>. The resource is a cooperative effort of authors from the University of Maryland, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and North Carolina State University.

Special Section – Exploring the National Agricultural Safety Database

The National Agricultural Safety Database (NASD) is a national central repository of agricultural health, safety, and injury prevention materials for the agricultural community and especially for agricultural safety specialists. It is located on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/>.

The mission of the NASD project is:

- To provide a national information resource for the dissemination of information.
- To identify and disseminate prevention information to agricultural workers on occupational hazards associated with injuries, death, and illness.
- To promote the consideration of safety and health issues into the management of agricultural operations for the purpose of reducing agricultural work-related injuries and illnesses.
- To provide a convenient way for members of the agricultural safety and health community to share educational and research materials with their colleagues.

Many materials are available online and can be located by topic or by state. Some materials, particularly videos, are described, and ordering information is provided. There is a special section for publications in Spanish.

Diane Relf of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service has contributed several homeowner pesticide-related articles including: [Exposure, Toxicity, and Risk of Home Pesticide Use](#), [Choosing Pesticides Wisely](#), and [Cancer Risks From Synthetic Pesticides In Perspective](#).

NASD is a user-supported database containing information contributed by safety professionals and organizations from across the nation. You can help by:

- Recommending materials that you'd like to see incorporated into NASD through the online form at <http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/contact1.html>, or
- Contributing your own materials to NASD by submitting them through the online form located at <http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/contact2.html>.

All referrals will be forwarded to the NASD Editorial Review Board.

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